

Michigan Supreme Court
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

ADMINISTRATION NUMBER 2003-22

Dear Honorable Members of The Supreme Court,

This letter contains my comments on the issue of proposed child support guideline revisions. I hope you have the time to consider this point of view

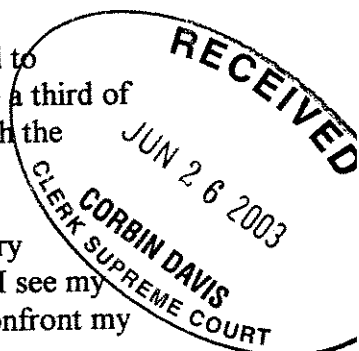
I had no choice but to divorce my former spouse in 1999. I will not get into the reasons but we argued for almost a year about custody before we finally settled on joint physical and joint legal custody with her getting primary physical custody. My daughter is 9 and my son is currently 6 years old.

She was working when I met her, worked during our courtship and during our marriage. At the time of our separation, she began receiving child support, her boyfriend moved in and she hasn't worked since. It is my belief that she has no intention of providing any economic support for the children going forward.

They are married now and he works as a union pipe fitter earning in excess of 60,000 a year. They have my children as deductions on their tax return, which gives them the luxury of exempting 6,100 from income tax as well as a child tax credit. I pay child support resulting in approximately another 8500 in tax-free income to the two of them based on the most recent order determining my income subject to support of 28,000 dollars. That leaves me with about 20,000 dollars to support my household. I provide the health, dental and vision insurance for my children, life insurance on myself, and pay 90% of all uncovered expenses because my former spouse is destitute in the eyes of the current system. (She chooses not to work) I cannot save for the children's education and I know the concept of saving is quite foreign to my former spouse. I am 48 and retirement is only a figment of my imagination anymore.

I have my children about 122 days a year or just under the number of days used to determine joint economic responsibility. Even though the children live with me a third of the time, my support is at the same levels as if I abandoned my relationship with the children and moved across the country.

My order reads frequent and liberal parenting time or at the very minimum every Wednesday, every other weekend and selected holiday times. Needless to say, I see my children the minimum amount of time because of the 128-day rule. I have to confront my former spouse in order for her to honor the existing order for my parenting time.



I believe that the cause for apathy in our culture has many roots. One of the causes may be that a central theme to our form of government has been lost along the way. When the framers of this nations government got together, many of them were considered statesmen. They voted their conscience on issues of importance and ignored pressures from the populace to get reelected. Their goal was the greatest good for the greatest number. They were for morals, ethics and what was logically justifiable.

I believe the court has the opportunity to do something that is moral ethical and equitable in situations such as mine. If the system were more equitable, it would reduce conflict between divorcees (much of which is about money), and benefit the children to the extent that parenting time might truly approximate the words used so often in court orders - frequent and liberal.

I closing I would like to say that I truly believe I am the best father I can be under the circumstances. For your review is a copy of the inscription given to me this year on a pillow my nine-year old daughter made at school for fathers day.

I hope you vote your conscience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laird Trepp". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Laird Trepp



My Dad



My dad is the best dad ever. He brings us to church to learn about Jesus and God. He also brings us to church to be good. The Green Bay Packers are his favorite team. He is cool.

My dad likes to do many things. He loves to watch football a lot. He also likes to bring us to school. We talk on the way there. He also loves to tease us just to have fun. He is sometimes funny. He also likes to mow the lawn.

My dad shops for food for us. He mostly cooks soup. He always buys us a treat, even when it's almost dinnertime. He always buys us toys. I love my dad a lot.

My dad helps me with my homework. I get three or four 'A's' on my report card. He also helps me when I am trying to clean my hamster cage out. Sometimes he is working, so he can't help me.

My dad cleans the house. He takes care of me when I am sick. He also takes care of my brother when he is sick. My dad has a lot of friends that take care of him. They are very nice.

When my dad cleans he does a good job. When my dad helps me with homework I get a hundred on my work. He is smart. My dad's cooking is delicious. My dad is fun. He likes to play games with us like Spongebob. I love my dad so much. By,

Cali Trepp